

church sanctuary and restrooms, parking lot, technology has been added to Leatha Walls Educational Complex and the purchase of an additional church minibus. Most importantly, Pastor Cheeks has provided a vision into the future, with fervent prayer, focused commitment and faithful service united with our Lord and Savior, "One in Jesus."

True Light Missionary Baptist Church has made significant contributions to the community, state and Nation by being actively involved in the Midtown Community, the Jackson District Missionary Baptist Association, the Jackson District Congress of Christian Education, General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Mississippi and the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the history of True Light Missionary Baptist Church.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA PHILHARMONIC'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, today I honor the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic as they celebrate their 50th anniversary. Under the direction of Music Director Mélisse Brunet and Executive Director Nancy Sanderson, the NEPA Philharmonic is a premier symphony orchestra bringing high caliber pops performances and classical music to Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Until the late 1960s, Northeastern Pennsylvania was home to two independent orchestras in Wilkes-Barre and Scranton. In early 1969, the boards of the two symphonies began to discuss the idea of increased cooperation between the two groups, and by October, a goal was set to have a joint orchestra give four performances in each city during the 1970–71 season. In January of 1970, the joint venture announced: a two-year trial period of a united symphony orchestra to be called the Northeastern Pennsylvania (NEPA) Philharmonic.

The new orchestra was under the direction of Scranton's, Beatrice Brown, then one of the few female conductors in the country, and Wilkes-Barre's Ferdinand Liva. After Brown's departure in 1971, conductor of the Pittsburgh Symphony, Polish-born Thomas Michalak, was hired as the first official music director after the Philharmonic's historic incorporation. The first performances were held in October 1972 at the Irem Temple in Wilkes-Barre and at the Masonic Temple in Scranton, featuring Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and Schuman's Piano Concerto in A Minor.

In 1979, Hugh Wolff, educated at Harvard University and the Peabody Institute, took over the baton. Under Wolff's direction, the orchestra soared to new heights and established its reputation as a prestigious symphony. In 1982, the Philharmonic gained statewide recognition during a televised performance of a work commissioned for the Commonwealth's tercentennial. During the early 1980s, the Philharmonic also began to attract world renowned guest artists.

In 1986, Wolff left the symphony, and the board appointed London-Born and Cambridge-

educated Hugh Keegan to the podium. Over 14 seasons, he grew the orchestra into one of the country's best regional orchestras with an impressively broad repertoire. Following Keegan's tenure, the orchestra continued to thrive under the tutelage of Clyde Mitchell and later Lawrence Loh.

Today, the orchestra continues to strive for and deliver the highest level of musical excellence and remains the only fully professional symphony in the region. The Philharmonic also provides arts outreach and education to foster the next generation of musical talent.

I am honored to join with the NEPA Philharmonic to celebrate 50 years of making music in Northeastern Pennsylvania. I look forward to seeing their future musical accomplishments, and I wish them great success as they continue to bring exceptional performances to our theaters and concert halls.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LIFE-TIME EDUCATOR, MARY CALTAGIRONE

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the life and contributions of Mary Mortellaro Caltagirone, a beloved member of the Tampa Bay community, who passed away on April 7, 2022, at the age of 99 after a lifetime of service as a devoted mother, educator and community volunteer.

A Tampa native of Sicilian decent, Mary grew up attending local public schools before leaving home to attend college, a rarity for a woman of her background at that time. Mary attended college at Florida College for Women, now Florida State University, and graduated in three years with a Bachelor of Science in Spanish and Math in 1943. In addition to this, she earned a certificate in Elementary Education from the University of Tampa and was a member of three honor societies. Mary took all of the education and experience she gained and brought it back home to serve her community in Tampa. She went on to teach for 40 years in Hillsborough County public schools at various grade levels and I am very grateful and proud to have been one of her students myself.

Mary retired from teaching in 1983, though her promotion of education and her community involvement only grew from there. Honoring her Sicilian heritage and Ybor City roots, Mary was a founding member of Lucerna and its offshoot organization, Pan American University Women (PAUW), whose mission it is to unite women of Latin decent who are graduates of institutions of higher learning, to promote fellowship, encourage education and professional accomplishments and to provide charitable contributions to the Tampa community. Mary served as a four-time president and was twice honored as PAUW Woman of the Year. Other community organizations and philanthropic involvements of hers included the Italian Club and their Ladies Auxiliary, Sons of Italy, St. John's Presbyterian Church, Spanish Lyric Theater, Judea-Christian Health Clinic and the Ybor City Museum, where she amassed over 1000 hours of service! Mary's incredible devotion to these groups was ex-

tremely appreciated by their community members. In 2005, she was presented with the Italian Woman of Excellence Award for Cultural and Civic Involvement and in 2007, she was named Person of the Year for Outstanding Service by St. John's Presbyterian Church.

Mary was a truly selfless and loving individual, and her legacy will continue to live through her sons Sam A. and Vincent G. Caltagirone (Sue), former daughters-in-law, Norma Tomasello Caltagirone and Carol Bond Caltagirone, nephews Vincent and Douglas Mortellaro (Tracy), cousin George Garcia (Bonnie), grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many more extended family. Her memory will truly be a blessing for her family, her students and all in our Tampa Bay community who have known her, learned from her and worked alongside her.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my neighbors in Tampa Bay and the citizens of Florida, I am proud to honor Mary Mortellaro Caltagirone for her lifelong dedication to education and for her demonstrations of service above self. All in our community are eternally grateful for her immense contributions. Her legacy will live on and inspire many others in the Tampa Bay community and beyond for years to come.

HONORING PASTOR ROBIN ROBINSON FOR HER SERVICE TO KERN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding leadership and proud legacy of community service of Pastor Robin Robinson of Bakersfield, California.

Born in Bakersfield and raised in Oklahoma, Pastor Robinson returned to her roots in Kern County when she was 15 years old, moving back to the Golden State to attend Arvin High School. After graduation, she went straight into the workforce, earning a California State contractor's license to start out and becoming a small business owner within the oil industry. By age 26, Pastor Robinson joined Canyon Hills Church as Bus Director—a move that would alter the trajectory of both the church and Pastor Robinson's life forever.

Transformed by the word of God while at Canyon Hills Church, Pastor Robinson decided to enroll in seminary and embark on a life of service. Upon graduation, she served as the church's Children's Pastor for ten years, sharing the Gospel with our community's youth. Because of her dedication and devotion to the congregation, she later became the Outreach Pastor, the Junior High Pastor which she served as for 19 years, and then the Adult Ministries Pastor, helping to lead the congregation with strength and compassion.

In 2019, Pastor Robinson accepted an offer to lead CityServe Kern County, a nonprofit that helps connect and empower local churches to better support the needs of our community. As the Community Development and Church Engagement Director, Pastor Robinson coordinated with businesses, local partners, and 120 churches in Kern County to help the most vulnerable receive much-needed food, secure housing, and obtain critical job